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WASHINGTON, D. C. – Congressman John Hall (NY-19) presented the Congressional Award Gold Medal today to Jesse Schmid of Holmes, NY. The Dutchess county resident, who is presently attending the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY, received his award at a special ceremony this morning at the Cannon Caucus Room, where he was joined by members of his family.

Earning the Congressional Award Gold Medal, the only award for young Americans that is presented by Congress, requires a significant commitment. Each participant must spend two years or more completing at least 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of both personal development and physical fitness activities and a four-night expedition or exploration.

To earn his award, Schmid served as a Boy Scout leader, a blood services worker for the American Red Cross and a United Way income tax preparer. He also spent time restoring two 1983 Datsun 280 ZX sports car while also training to try out for a walk-on position on his NCAA college golf team. (Needless to say, he made the team.) Schmid finished the award requirements by planning and embarking on a hiking and whitewater rafting trip in Maine, where he climbed Mt. Katahdin and encountered a moose.

"Jesse Schmid is an exemplary and exceptional individual whose accomplishments are certainly deserving of the Congressional Award Gold Medal," said Rep. Hall. "His strong dedication to personal improvement and civic duty are remarkable character traits and suggest that he'll be an important contributor to the greater good of our nation for many years to come."

